

POPULAR **Computing** WEEKLY

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Vol 3 No 38

Acorn's new ABC micro



ACORN this week launches 44 stages of business computers — called the ABC range.

The machines are based around a development of the BBC machine with 1000 core processor offered with a choice of second processor options beginning with a 280 — giving CP/M compatibility — and including the 3808 for National Semiconductor 1000 — offering the latest operating

system — and at the top end also 60266 36/4 bit development from the 6000 giving the ABC range IBM compatibility. All have full size keyboard, disc and monitor.

At the bottom end of the range is the Terminal — basically a BBC machine with Connect, terminal-emulator software, 32K Ram and a 14 inch black-and-white monitor.

Next is the Personal Aste

ast microprocessor with one double-density 5.25-inch disc drive with up to 700K storage capacity. It is fully expandable to the top of the range machine.

The last of the ABC machines with the second processor option is the ABC 100 with two 5.25-inch drives and a 280 second processor, which runs CP/M. Like the Personal Assistant it has a 12 inch black-and-white monitor.

The second, the APC 110, has a colour monitor, one 7.25-inch drive and a 10M Winchester hard disc.

The next two models, the ABC 200 and 210, use the 6000 36/30 bit chip and have 128K Ram. The 210 uses the Zeta operating system.

Finally, the ABC 300 and 310 machines use the Intel 80286 chip, a development from the 8000 and 8086 processor range, which gives the machines IBM compatibility running Digital Research Concurrent version 3.1 with 256K Ram, upgradeable to 1M. Other specifications are similar to those of the 200 and 210 respectively.

The range is being introduced at the Personal Computer World Show, but will not be available until early 1985.

continued on page 11

Oric's new Stratos

ORIC's Cambridge-based research team is working on the successor to the Atmos which will be launched in France, before the end of the year.

The new micro — with the working name of the Stratos — will be technically very similar to the Atmos and be based around the 6800 processor chip.

Commented Tassoff's marketing manager Adrian Kallianiotis: "We will be providing software support for it. We do not have to adapt our existing titles for the new machine — it is software compatible with the Oric1 and Atmos machines."

Oric has been more successful in the rest of Europe than in the UK under the market leader in France where the new machine is to be launched.

Enterprise slips again

THE arrival of the long-awaited 486 Enterprise computer seems likely to have been delayed yet again.

Retailers have yet to be given firm delivery dates for Christmas and Yuletide, the machine's main distributor, has been told not to expect first machines until 1985.

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>View

There is a small squabble taking place in the Popular offices this week.

The subject of the mild wrangle is the ownership of a small yellow plastic bucket and green spade which arrived by post two weeks ago.

There are both a gift from the UK MGC working group and the first embodiment of the quality of money, time and effort that the world's top electronics companies intend to spend to ensure that MGC will become a household word and will be largely successful — regardless of the technical merit or otherwise of the system.

On Wednesday a selected group of microcomputer journalists — instead of attending the trade and press day of this year's Personal Computer World Show — will be checking their buckets and spades on a day trip to the north of France — from Lee-Pike to the precise.

For it is here in the Gote d'Aur — on the opening day of the Personal Computer World Show in London — that the MGC machines are to be officially launched. The hope is doubtless to attract attention from the UK major companies which, together with Commodore, will be showing new machines at the show.

Must this then, the trip serve to underline the scale of the promotional effort that will be going to ensure that there are no hiccups and that MGC achieves the Japanese manufacturers' stated strategy of becoming 'the first home computer standard'.

With all the Sunday supplement ads, the poster boardings, national press and television promotions, it will be easy to forget what MGC is about.

It will be easy to forget that MGC is ISO, that MGC is I-See, that MGC is a commercial organisation and that MGC isn't really anything new.

POPULAR Computing WEEKLY

Vol 3 No 38

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Street Life > Christina Endone talks to Geoffrey Bristle of video games company turned software house Activision

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Software reviews > The Cric version of Quackshew's Vektor's Lair > Test yourself on the Highway Code

Plus4 review > This week, the software. John Cochrane looks at the integrated Rom software bundled with the Plus4

Spectrum > L.Hemman's program demonstrates the single pulley system known as Atwood's Machine

Dragon > Create your own hi-res screen dump from machine code with Peter Whitaker's program

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Editor: Christine Lewis; News editor: Christine Lewis; Features editor: Graham Taylor; Software editor: John Cook; Production editor: Lynne Corbridge; Editorial secretary: Christine Smith; Advertisement manager: David Lee; Assistant advertisement manager: Nancy Hadcroft; Advertisement executive: Tom Henson; Classified secretary: Clare Davis; Advertising production: Luella Lee; Administration: Theresa Lutz; Managing editor: Duncan Scott; Publishing director: Jerry Sargent; Publishing: Random Publications Ltd; 12 Littlewood Street, London EC2A 4JD; Tel: 01-481 4341; Telex: 196775; Typeset by The Graph Shop, 10-12 Bowdler Street, London EC2A 1JL; in association with British Page Ltd; Printed by Paul Williams Ltd, Potton Road, Northampton; Published fortnightly for RSP Distributed by D M Distribution; London 0490 20 21 (04 1981); ISSN 0950-4334; © Random Publications Ltd 1988

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Enterprise

4 continued from page 1

The further delay to the machine — which has been dogged by problems since it was first due in the shops almost a year ago — appears to have been caused by design difficulties with the machine's so-called "black video chip."

"We hope to be out this autumn but we need to make sure that the product is fully developed" first," said Caroline Jones of Enterprise's marketing department. "At the moment we cannot say how many machines will be available this Christmas."

Caroline continued, "From well before distribution the Enterprise through its T&E colleagues will also be selling through John Minot, and Robert and W H Smith have expressed an interest for 1985."

John Minot's computer product manager David Coghill confirmed that John Minot was in negotiations with Enterprise, but added, "As yet, we have been given no firm date for delivery."

And John Minot, from computer buyer said, "It is possible we may take the Enterprise in 1985, but to do so, we would have to drop a machine already in stock, and I cannot think which one it would be."

Bob Denton, managing director of Prism Ltd, "We have now been told that our first supplies of the CompuSense will not be until January — and recently we understood the first machines were due this month."

Enterprise's 1985 model has been even further delayed and first machines are now not expected until first quarter next year.

Spectravideo release

SPECTRAVIDEO is releasing a new MDX machine, the 330. It is fully MDX compatible and costs £149.95 retail. Spectravideo hopes to start shipping in December. It includes RLE film which breaks down to RLE film and RLE videoRAM. It has 60 pages of which 30 are user programmable, and has a numeric keypad membrane of 100 x 100 pixels.

Launch of CompuNet

COMPU.NET, Commodore's own, Frontal type, interactive database system is officially launched this week.

Initially the service will be available only to Commodore 64 and 6264 owners. To access the system a will be necessary to buy the Commodore module—which plugs into the 64's cartridge port and



connects to a standard British Telecom telephone socket allowing the owner to communicate the CompuNet mainframe computer.

The module unit costs £26.95 and the price includes one year's free subscription to CompuNet. Therefore CompuNet subscribers will have to pay an annual fee of around £20.

Connection to CompuNet will be free between film and film and subscribers will be able both up and down-load information and use its electronic mail and teleworking

features—the latter available by joining Comp-U-Card, an on-line discount shopping scheme. Documented commercial software will also be offered for down-loading. By the time the system is fully operational in mid October, around 50 software packages will be available, including Family from Mr More and Link from International Science Publisher and Functions from Commodore.

The CompuNet module is a 1200/10 baud V20 full-duplex asynchronous device. CompuNet operates at 1200/10 baud full-duplex up-load facility.

With 10 access points located distributed nationally, most subscribers should be able to access the system at local call rates.

Owners of the Commodore module will not be restricted to CompuNet, however. The device is also compatible with Frontal and Microtran—both of which can be accessed on payment of the relevant subscription, and the module, within its 1K ROM, has a software option direct communication from one Commodore 64 to another.

Plus Editor/Assembler, which we would be offering.

The offer should be available within the next week and will apply only while stocks last.

Details from CompuSense, Great Lakes, London N12

Your personal banker

KENT-based Eikon Computer Services is taking a gamble with its *Personal Banking System*.

Since to become the first UK home computer software company to distribute a program on Prostream.

Prostream is a form of data bank that goes round the problem of money in one fell swoop. The program is distributed by mail-order free of charge to those interested, who then need a voluntary contribution to the company.

In Wilson's case, the donation then enables the user to obtain support, and up-graded

Norman's on the warpath

COMDEX/FA plans a strong line of products for the Autumn.

Developers of *Be and Castle of Jaxxon*—both on disc for the C64 at £14.95 from the Canadian house *Interdimensional Software* are what Quacktion describes as "interactive films"—audio adventures, featuring Norman de Waaier.

Another disc product for the 64 is *Starline Chase* by Epps, priced at £19.95 (also available on two cassettes for £14.95).

After a tie-up with the UK sister *STANDARD* Quacktion has now taken featuring *Norman the Dog—Norman the Dog—the Killing for the Spectrum* (64 K) and *Norman the Dog and the Death Gunter for the 64* (64 K).

The follow up to *2D Art Attack* on the Spectrum is *James Bond* which includes



MDX sound Software, while 2D Art Attack is released for the 64.

Finally there is *Coordinate's Red Darts and Blood and Clay for the Spectrum* where you travel through the organs of the body "all in the best possible taste", both for the Spectrum.

version of the *Personal Banking System*.

"I have only taken a risk, and we could well be ripped off," said Jack Chisholm, Wilson's managing director. "Certainly I've won 100,000 copies, but I don't think people would pay for this as a money program, with a limited market, and I think it could work."

"We're making no grade—there is no how much people should donate—after all, it was told me on normal price, they may use that as a wrapper limit."

Personal Banking System is available for 2301 (64K), 48K Spectrum (Microdrive compatible), BBC and Dragon (32 and 64K). Details from Eikon Computer Services, 14 Andon Road, Orpington, Kent.

Dragons from CompuSense

CUT PRICE Dragon computers should shortly be available through CompuSense.

The company aims to sell both the 32K and 64K models in limited packages—the 32 with a single disc drive and software and the 64 with a double disc drive and software.

"The package with the 32K model will cost around £180, and the 64K set for about £190," said Ted Opythall, managing director of CompuSense. "We are also planning to exchange Dragon 32s—in working condition, of course—for the 64K plus the disc drive at £50 off, about £140-£150. The used 32s we will then donate to Local Education Authorities."

"This has come about because DEC has large stocks of the *Prostream* at the moment, and Touchstream a lot of software. The software includes programs such as *QED* and the

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Letters

Life giver

To get some life into Richard Cain's program Life (August 10 issue) do the following:
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 Price \$229.95, 118
 Price \$229.95, 118

You will correct the code, which should then be re-coded.
 A W Lee
 Denver
 Kent

Win some, lose some

While I tend to agree with the broader aspects of the editorial (August 10), I find the statement, "Where in the software that doesn't assume we are all glowering, frowning happy idiots," a little cynical. It is clear that even glowering kids have a right to be catered for, although at the moment that does seem to be a little overdone.

However, there is software for the less discerning of us. May I suggest that the editor has only trouble in his over-ambition to find the intelligent and subtle software he refers to.
 "Book Madness" (June, August 10) mentioned the regular price with which we all agree — the price of software.

Having just purchased an Amstrad CPC464, I was none to excited at the price of software, or its availability.

Admitted in your recent edition was The Trail of Anansi (Blackwood), an adventure game for the Amstrad. The price of £18.95 is just about what I consider fair for a decent game, so I ordered it. It has kept my brain working and

offered plenty of light relief with its word games. I haven't completed it yet, but the game inspires me to letters that I will.

Incidentally there are many more examples that meet with the wit, intelligence, subtlety factor, although it is often a case of win some, lose some.

I agree with you on the subject of documentation, typography, or even literary books. If software is to be original, then it must surely avoid the horrendous well-worn. Perhaps it is something that is not in abundance.

Steve Davis
 31 Regent Square
 Edinburgh
 Kent

Interesting conversation

I thought I should write and tell readers of Popular Computing Weekly and owners of the Sinclair QL Computer of an interesting conversation I had with Mr. Tim Freeman, a Sinclair Research official at Cambridge.

The subject of upgrades to the QL package came up, so Mr. Freeman reiterated that the QL-Deer Guide would be updated and sent free to all QL owners. He also informed me that the Pascal applications software would be updated and distributed at a similar fashion.

When I asked what exactly the point was of my asking QLDS — the QL Users' Bureau — he retorted, "I wouldn't like to offer the upgraded software to just QLDS members."

Alan Turnbull
 Stockport
 Cheshire

Complex words

I am sorry some readers had trouble with the Word Processor (Letters August 10). It is a very complex piece of software, but I think you will find the programming effort involved. I hope that the following will explain the difficulty with the input of new text.

There is no different process, whether you wish to input a new document, insert text into an existing game, or edit the existing text. The method is

the same.

First you select how much of the existing text to display then, you add, change and delete text on the screen. Now you send the screen back to replace the text displayed. When you are typing in new text, you display most of the lines of existing text, and send back the new text.

If you have used the default settings as published, you can simply display the screen any time when you have to enter the line to start the edit at, and the number of lines to show on the screen. This will select the line after the last line you have entered so far — initially, of course, that is not to the very first line of the text.

To enter a new page, it is best to finish the program, then start again. This ensures that the line numbers and text are re-initialised.

To summarise — to input new text, edit a large screen into the text you require.

I use the program, as pointed for all my correspondence and I find it very reliable and entirely satisfactory. However, I should like to draw your attention to two mistakes. The reference to the JS key in the introduction should read J2 and the odd words, "position to turn red", when "line J22" belongs to the end of Line J22.

Steve Wallers
 Swindon
 Wiltshire

A form of flattery?

Mr. Godwin says programmers want to keep their routines secret.

In that case why not if I thought of something good, I would want everyone to know so they could say what a clever chap I was.

On another tack, does tape copying really reduce sales? When Paine announced Scribble, I learned WH Smith was UK's cheapest in my local town, waiting for the first shipment to come in. Data Checkmate, Flag and The Owl.

Now, I do have copied programs that other people have given me (who can say they have not?) but they are all things that I wouldn't have bought anyway. In fact I can imagine how copying can promote sales.

Three unpriced-in cash for each copy contains 25 each for original of Apple's own-printed, Flamingo, then make two copies. The world would give Alan one sale what they otherwise would have had none. I suppose Mr. Godwin would say that was one sale instead of three.

I don't know if that ever happens, but it is more likely than the proposition that every tape-copy represents one lost sale.

John Ward
 41 Parkside Road
 Leigh-on-Sea
 Essex

Learn to Fly Competition: Week 3

Competition week 3 and here are the week's vouchers. Collect the four voucher vouchers and fill in the coupon printed in the last week. Send the form and the four 'plane' vouchers and you could win a go on a real flight simulator.

Send in the form and the second set of four vouchers and you are entitled to unpublished documents on Harrier, Conquest flight simulation and ATC software.



Yahtzee

Try your luck in this version of the old dice game for the BBC B, by Richard Dodd

Yahtzee is a five-dice game written on the BBC micro computer model B. The object of the game is to score as many points as possible. There are many ways to do this, and these are shown on the score card. The simplest way of scoring points is to throw one or more of the same number. For example, if you throw three fives you will score 15 points.

There are also more complicated ways of scoring points. For example:

1 Full House. Three dice of one number and two of another, for example, three fives and two ones. This scores 25 points.

2 Low Straight. A sequence of four dice,

for example, two, three, four and five. This scores 30 points.

3 High Straight. The same as a low straight but a sequence of five dice. This scores 40 points.

4 Yahtzee. Five dice all of the same number. Scores 50 — the highest number of points.

5 Chance. The points for chance are worked out by adding the total of all the dice together.

You can only enter one value into each section of the score card, so when you have thrown the dice you will have to decide into which is the best section to enter the score.

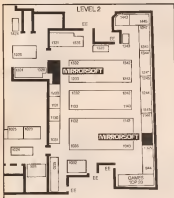
You have three goes to try and get a scoring combination and any number of the dice can be thrown each time. As you continue you may find that you cannot get a scoring combination and you will be asked which of the sections you wish to cross out.

At the end of the game the total for the top half is added up. If the total is over 50 a bonus of 35 is added. If more than one person is playing, each score card will be displayed separately and then the players name in order of their scores.

The program is well structured, with self-explanatory procedure labels.



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Avoiding the pitfalls

Christian Esquire talks to Geoffrey Heath at Activision

In an industry not noted for slick professionalism and sophisticated marketing—certain one tends to think of individuals working all night turning off cameras on the kitchen table—Activision has earned some renown in both areas.

Founded in 1979 by Jan Levy, who had a long background in video games, it made its name with games such as *Privateer*, *Grand Prix*, *Patrol* and *River Raid* for the Atari 2600. In June 1983, the company went public on the NYSE.

In the US, Activision was established at the beginning of this year as Activision prepared to move from producing cartridge software for Atari to establish material for a wider base of machines.

The American industry has been much in evidence in its advertising, with promotional videos and expensive—well, it looks expensive—packaging.

I therefore requested US managing director Geoffrey Heath to at least have a translated account, for copy and possibly a Screen on the husband. None of these things materialized.

Geoffrey was pleased from 30 years in the British retail publishing business

had ended, and it seemed the only answer," said Geoffrey.

"The time between the idea and the actual launch the company has been taken up with setting up the US base and winning the commitment for the other machines, particularly the Spectrum."

"The policy has been to take the best of our video games and enhance them, while developing new games as well. I suppose if video games come back into vogue, we could always convert them all back again."

The company's American converted *Demolition Derby*, *Patrol II*, *River Raid*, *Space Shuttle* and *King of the Hill* for MSX, seven titles for Spectrum and under Commodore, from Atari video games.

Activision's next release will be something rather different, however. *Patrol* will be available in about six weeks time for both the Commodore 64 and the Spectrum. It is a turn-driven graphics drawing aid—in the Commodore it incorporates a visual generation aid. The user selects from the menu to generate the "patrol" itself.

"It is a bit different," said Geoffrey. "The idea behind it is that a lot of

lost and is quite old. Parents don't get involved until later in a way, computers are developing along similar lines to the pocket calculator market.

"But so long ago, calculators were considered to be something a bit gimmicky—now my son is told he has to have one for school. In a few years, the home computer will occupy the same status as a hand-held or the telephone, the TV or the washing machine."

"This is where I think the MSX machines will be important. The technology may be basic, but they'll be reliable and the next generation will be much more sophisticated. Machines like MSX will find their way into households in which people aren't particularly computer-minded and I can also see companies like [W] developing their music centres to incorporate a micro."

Here that Activision has established itself in the US, it is taking the next step in conformity and applying to join CORN.

"I think it's a good idea if only because video is what it is and a small industry and we should all get on well with each other."



With CORN, I'd like to see them getting much more aggressive over money—after all, the music industry has managed to curb piracy to a large extent and I think the software industry can do it too."

In case anyone reading this is now rubbing their hands with glee at the thought of an Activision Microdeal contribution (after Activision failed sales of the Microdeal title *Cliffhanger* and the package within the Cloud of Software House, they will be disappointed). The Microdeal episode is over and done with. We did the right thing, they did the right thing, and it's all water under the bridge now.

"But it does seem to have engendered a view that we are a just 'ratty American' company, which is rubbish. Four years ago, it was a one-room set-up developing cartridge games for the Atari 2600."

Comparisons are frequently drawn between software and the pop music industry—how does Geoffrey bearing witness to both, were that. "They're certainly similar in that both are 'hot' businesses—you're dealing with a product that's in vogue."

"In terms of programs, though, the software industry is tremendously exciting—you have to keep on one foot all the time, and I'll continue at that pace, as long as people have more and more leisure time, and spend a lot of that time in the home."



with ITV Music and Bealby Music among others to set up and develop Activision's base in Britain and Europe. Today there are eight people based in the US offices with a further two in France. Short on Activision's target list in Germany, and that comes Japan.

The plans to diversify from the Atari VCS machines evolved over a year ago in the US. "They were making plans then to begin converting the games to Commodore—and Spectrum for the British market—and also the MSX machines. The Atari boom

people play games, without really understanding what the computer is doing. This helps build up a pattern, so it seems, of what programming involves. If you had to describe Activision's products in one sentence, they're hardware for leisure purposes," and I think our *Patrol* fits that description." *Patrol*, incidentally, will cost around £10.50 for the Commodore version and at the price of £10.50 on Spectrum.

The "leisure software" is largely aimed at a young market. "My view is that the majority of home computer users are between



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Hardware Review

Head down

Hardware *LeProfile* keyboard **Micro** *Spectrum* **Price** £49.95 **Supplier** *Advanced Memory Systems*, Green Lane, Appleton, Warrington

There are now at least half-a-dozen manufacturers producing alternatives to the Spectrum's tacky rubber keyboard. The *LeProfile* by *Advanced Memory Systems* seems to be one of the best available, because it's good-looking, ergonomically simple, and easy to fit.

The latest version improves on many small ways the original *Profile* design. Like the first model, it's low and wide — necessarily wide, since much of the space inside ends up empty — and looks more like a *QW* than anything else. To the right of the main keyboard is a 15 key extra pad, which duplicates the numerical, full stop, capital and cursor keys. There's thoughtfully a proper space bar which is a boon in word-processing applications.

The new design has careful silver-lined red flashes across the front right and along the top, though nowhere will you find the words *Sinclair Spectrum*. The key legends are accurately and clearly reproduced, with the colour information printed on the case above the top row of keys.

The case itself is in two pieces. The top half is high-impact plastic. Unfortunately, for some reason the hinge left side of the base — it's a much more flimsy plastic, which appears rather flimsy for this application.

The keys themselves are plastic, white, as you'll see if you examine them from the side, but this doesn't seem to affect their performance. There's a satisfying "click" and since there's no "buffer" between the



LeProfile and the Spectrum's printed-circuit board, you can't type faster than the machine allows — or at least I can't.

Fitting in simplicity itself, and this is a great advantage of the *LeProfile* over other keyboards which may require you to learn new, like, new, solder and heat your Spectrum into shape. The Spectrum's entire



control board is removed from its case — thus voiding your guarantee, remember — and is fixed over four screws to the base of the *LeProfile*. Two ribbon cables, connected to the model *LeProfile* keyboard, are then clipped into sockets on the PCB. This is made easier because *AMS* has added small tabs of PCB to the end of the cables.

Having screwed on the top of the *LeProfile* case, you're ready to go. The Spectrum ports and up at the back of the new keyboard, so it's easy to connect the printer lead, hard-disk cables, and peripherals. One slight problem is that the hole left for the rear port is very large — just to ensure that no foreign objects get into the keyboard, it might be an idea to insert in a *Corbin Miyake* motherboard, which nearly fits the gap. It's good practice to use a Microdot anyway, since it's cheaper to replace a worn-out Microdot than it is to replace a worn-out Spectrum.

All in all the *LeProfile* is a real keyboard on the Spectrum, and the simplicity and appearance of the *LeProfile* make it a good choice.

Chris Jenkins

Imp print

Hardware *Micrographic Interface* **MF280** **Micro** *Commodore* **Price** £90 **Supplier** *Impex Design*, Metro House, Second Way, Wembley, Middlesex



One of the latest add-ons for the Commodore range of home computers (including the new C18 and Plus1 models) to cross the Atlantic is a very unusual intelligent Commodore printer interface. The *Micrographic Interface MF280* is ambitious because not only does it provide a Commodore output to any standard printer, but it also uses the Commodore Serial IO port as if it were a Commodore printer. It produces a full set of Commodore graphics characters on most common dot-matrix printers, produces highly sophisticated graphics characters if required, and allows for an in-built buffer of up to 4096 bytes.

The interface uses a CMOS 6802 microprocessor to decide any output from the Commodore computer and to drive the printer as required. Different printers are catered for by alternative machine-code routines built in *ROM*. Printers on which graphics can be produced include the *Exxon* range, *Macintosh* Tails, *Microdot*, *Seibohs*, *Star*, *Edman*, and *NEC*. Many

other dot-matrix printers use the same command codes as one of these and hence can be used satisfactorily, assuming the printer has a graphics mode.

Using the interface is exactly the same as using a Commodore printer, but with some additional facilities. Commercial software, such as for word processing, should thus still work happily. Additional facilities include setting of page length, margins, commercial-style output to print *ASCII* codes only, re-setting the Commodore device number and secondary address assigned by the interface, and changing the auto-feed setting.

The *Impex*, *Impex Design* (*IED*) provide a full customer service. They keep a list of printers which are compatible with their graphics facilities and will try to sort out any problems which may arise. The price shown includes a *RE* buffer.

John Cockburn

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1. **Introduction**

Abstract

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ADDRESS: Competition House, London Market/Harbourway, London EC3A 3AF

Obiterated

Program: Space Station Alpha
Micro: BBC B Pairs 12 16 Supp-
plier Icom Software, 48 High
Street, Gosforth, Tyne and
Wear

As the Cylon fleet commences its final assault on planet Earth, our last space station — Space Station Alpha — remains to resist their attempts, and quite naturally you are not

partial view of the space station, the Earth and the Moon (or is it the Earth) in the background, and the dynamic elements — the manoeuvres, and the Cylon ships swooping in from the top right of the screen to deliver their lethal torpedo-dependent before reverting away across the display.

The duration of the game is determined by the strength of the Earth's defence shield, the force of which is depleted from its original value of 10000 with each alien torpedo strike.

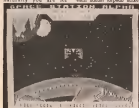
away for about five minutes before the Earth's defences finally crumble. When no shields are remaining, the Earth is doomed and is obliterated from the screen in an explosion which sends debris flying off into space.

Two constants of the game *Flinto*, the action is limited to a single, repetitive attack sequence. There are no screen changes and only slight variations in the speed and altitude of the Cylon ships as successive waves are destroyed, inevitably therefore, whilst the addictive challenge of "tagging" the high score remains, I found that I reached my "game-over" level that much sooner.

Secondly, I was unable to discover any instructions on my copy of the game, either on the presentation box cover, as advised on the cassette label, or in its "intro" in the program. Fortunately the controls were all fairly standard, the game loading with the CBT (generally next PAGE—NEXT) a 125 is fired, and with X (left), Y (right), * (up), / (down) and Space (fire) as the "game" controls.

On the whole, pretty average arcade action.

Steve Wilson



commander.

Described on the cover as a "Graphical Space Battle", the visual display on *Space Station Alpha* is a colourful, yet simple mixture of fixed graphics — a

10000 as a generous point) to start from and provides for a good length game. Without laying a hand on the controls, I sat and watched the first three waves of the Cylon fleet batter

your child with his or her school work. Starts down, if it has. All those with asking more and children among to take CBT or "12" level system languages can now perform the station by getting hold of a score of 10,000 points, but non-friendly learning tapes from Southern Educational Software.

I sampled the French version level 1 tape and found it to be well worth the asking price of \$14.99. The program — two different lessons — teach verbs, nouns and adjectives and follow up with a series of tests of knowledge learned. Both more at a very basic level, and covered the ground thoroughly if a little rudely at times.

The tests were, I felt, rather too easy; they were all of the "multiple choice" variety, and thus could leave you feeling that you know more than you actually did — but this was only level 1.

The programs are written in Basic and are well protected against the amateur hacker. I suspect the level of protection is responsible for a number of loading problems I had, one part of the program would not work with Interface I attached, probably due to some machine code in Basic statements in the loader program.

The only graphics used are for corrected letters, and sound is not used especially well, but the display is clear and does make use of colour and large printing.

All in all a more profitable use for your Spectrum than *Space Invaders*, and with the new term just beginning these packages should sell well.

Simon Sparkett

Price

Allen blabs

Program: SOS Milne Spectra
Pairs: 12 16 Supp-plier Visions, 1
Fiddlegate House, Gosforth St,
London W5

Another one for the arcade breaker here, with the usual menu of various alien blabs, a rather underpowered space theme and a pathetic bunch of home-made in-reverence to a hostile planet.

You arrive in a mother ship, which says the instructions in a gossamer-like style. I wish people would think before they write, as the mother ship seems about until you leave it, whereas it conveniently says still. The shuttle screen are unable to move you up the

screen before you pull up a survivor, but the extra weight seems to impede them, so as soon as you are unable to move down the screen. Oh well, it's only a game.

There are joyride options for *Experiments* and *Shuttle*, and the controls worked well. I can't say the graphics were very special, nor was the sound anything to write home about, but the game is very playable, and will prove addictive for some.

SOS Milne has come up with a competent game, 120% machine code and using many good techniques (though it won't work with Interface I attached). It's up with the field, although probably not expected enough to be one of the leaders.

Simon Sparkett



Profitable

Program: French Review Level 1
Micro: Spectrum Pairs 12 16 Supp-plier Southern Educational Software, 4 Pease Rd,
Maidstone Kent ME16 6ST

Here's up all parents who thought that buying a computer would help



Take-off!

Program: Air Traffic Control
Micro Spectrum: Price £16.95
Supplier: Micro-Cas, 44 The Broadway, Basingstoke, Hants.

The first thing that I must say is that I had never even seen, let alone played, an air traffic control simulation before the time they say that computers are tedious.

As an Area ATC, one has to direct the inbound, outbound, and local flights over an area of coastlines and England. The purpose of the game is not to land planes, but to administer their flight paths over the area of your control. Needless to



On the slopes

Program: Bear George Micro
Spectrum: Price £1.95
Supplier: Chesshead, 14 Ray-L, London EC1

My first viewing of the game was by way of an introduction to the LPT, the famous joystick. The sense of excitement and interest generated by said device was such that this for this



would have been a bit. And yet here we are in the deep logs of day, and the game most mind on in the world. These, however, are few.

Bear George consists of three 'playing screens' which, upon successful completion, then repeat themselves over and over again. First you read

any, there are various problems, such as erratic MAP around over which you have no control, unstable cable present on some plastic collision courses and so on.

By far the most attractive part of this package is the remarkable attention to detail that is shown in both the program and the manual. Micro-Cas have not taken short of offering a challenge at level seven out of nine, the program simulates a busy summer's day at Bournemouth, with up to 80 flights as hard to be dealt with.

There were many things that surprised me about playing ATC, not least being the fact that I actually enjoyed the experience. I am not sure if I would play it frequently, but it certainly provides a welcome diversion from mainstream Micro entertainment.

Griffin Goodwin



catch and eat falling apples while dodging most aggressive worms. Then to the old slopes, to take George to his own and avoid the malicious skier.

Now only some fairly uninspiring, though decent, updates back George's way to an inside sleep. If he has more enough apples, he will survive without having toasting. (I don't know, I don't know.)

Believe me, it isn't. The most considerable feature of this



program is the graphics, which are certainly of above average quality, and it is a shame to see them employed in such an unimpressive context.

And of the ATC II may well provide.

Griffin Goodwin



3. This sign on the road is a warning of a road ahead.

4. End of crawler lane.

5. Lane closed ahead.

6. No crash barrier.

7. Use the hard shoulder.



L plates

Program: Highway Code Micro
Spectrum: Price £1.95
Supplier: Derek Computing, 15 Warwick Court, Princess Drive, Harrow, Middlesex.

You can't actually learn to drive on a Spectrum as yet, but Highway Code will help you to pass the test when you get around to taking it. This is a straightforward educational program teaching some of the main aspects of the Code in a useful way, and enabling you to see yourself against an impaired judge.

It could lead to us and of suggesting the need for the family to test you in the days leading up to the cycling proficiency or driving test. I used to be told the merits ability to be a parent and inflexible teacher.

Griffin Goodwin

No humour

Program: Valour's Lair Micro
One/Micro: Price £1.95
Supplier: Quackhead, P.O. Box 5, Wimburn, Dorset BH20 1JX.

The goal of this test only adventure is to seek out Valour's Lair. A skilled adventurer should be able to spot the false trail, pick up clues and objects and avoid being wiped out too quickly by the collection of enemies lurking in the maze. The labyrinth is complex and something is encountered at almost every move, there being enough tricks and puzzles to keep even a well-serveded adventurer occupied.

The test itself is fairly descriptive but perhaps lacking originality in the settings

The program is very user friendly and covers a variety of topics. It seems to be written as machine-coded basic, but runs fairly slowly. The 'test' course in the version on tape gives positive orders and one pressing examples. There is speed break protection, making the program ideal for the inexperienced user.

The tests are timed so that you have an incentive to answer quickly, and you are given your score at the end of the test. Importantly, there is an option to 'Correct Mistakes', as well as to see the solutions.

Written mainly for the car driver, the program will still be of use to other road users, and would be an ideal gift for anyone starting to learn to drive.

Simon Springer



(names and passages) and moments (the absorption of the test also takes any sense of humor to offset the seriousness of being killed).

As an adventure game Valour's Lair is very good, but don't let Valour's Lair fool you into thinking the game has any resemblance to Dungeons & Dragons or the same. It's a bit more.

Valour's Lair can be played as one of the characters, Warrior, Wizard or Priest. Warriors have strength points only, while Wizards and Priests have strength and spell points. Spells are obviously useful, although they can be tedious. However, I found little difference when playing these characters and the use of 'hit points' was not.

W. F. Fiddler



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Working in Plus/4s

John Cochrane takes a first look at the four *Amiga* software packages included with Commodore's new Plus/4 micro

Commodore are producing two new machines for the home computer market this year. The C16 looking very much like a *VidCone* but with improved basic, and the Plus/4 with a full 64K of user memory (line around 8K for the system variables and the display memory).

The C16 and the Plus/4 share the same Commodore basic 1.5, but there the resemblance ends. The Plus/4—in my opinion, much the more stylish of the two machines—also contains a suite of built-in software known as *PLUS-1*.

The great facilities for word processing, record filing, spreadsheet operations, and simple graphics.

However, do not begin to think that Commodore are throwing the guidelines down in Sinclair's direction. *PLUS-1* is simply not in the same class as the QL software despite offering full adaptation.

Integration is a well-used word these days for machines such as the IBM PC, and integrated software means at many colours Commodore have satisfactorily covered all seven points with *PLUS-1* which is integrated into the machine. From a button or two and the ROM-based software is up and running, so loading from disc or taping of microdisks here and there all the packages are available in memory at the same time, and it is very easy to transfer data from one to the other. The disadvantages—in the case of the Plus/4 is that the four packages are contained in two files totalling 10K of memory. Even though they all reside from the system ROM and hence, the size of the programs but still had to be kept quite small and, consequently, quite simple.

Data Manager is the data filing program which works to the common theme of setting up a number of very similar records, names and addresses for instance, or disc then allowing various operations to be performed. Searches can be made for particular data items, perhaps a particular name, the records can be sorted alphabetically,

and the records can be re-arranged, supply names or other information for use with the word processor. This last feature is perhaps the one offering most practical potential as it allows change like personal and circulation, mail-shots, and data-like reports to be easily and rapidly produced.

The word processor or is of limited capability, offering only 64 lines of 77 characters. Buttons for letter writing but not much else. Also, as the screen display is limited to only 33 characters, a rather clumsy system of paging across the document being typed has been adopted, making a difficult to read and write a document. Still, the basics are there. (The illustrations here has word carriage returns



half-way through each line in order to be able to follow the whole document on screen at the same time.)

Spreadsheets can also be setup, on a grid of cells 80 rows and 17 columns. Memory limitations will usually mean that only about half these cells can actually be used however Commodore has decided to go its own way on the spreadsheet in terms of the manner of addressing individual cells and with some of the functions provided

for setting up the spreadsheet. If you have used other spreadsheets then you will probably find this one slow and limited if you are a beginner than I would advise you to avoid the one as you will soon outgrow it and may experience an unnecessary confusion that starting in another. The value of the

program is that it is almost instantly available and can be used to set up data for transferring to the word processor.

Finally, the graphics package. Very limited in the most apt description. This is the *PLUS-1* program in the *3-plus-1* package



and a really interesting on-line spreadsheet which allows a visual representation of data to be rapidly set up and transferred to the word processor. Commodore claims to have avoided using the high-resolution screen in order to provide a graph which can be reproduced by a standard Commodore printer, and I must admit that the printer commands are built into the software. Even so, I would have thought it would be possible to provide a little more in the way of spreadsheet display formats, the thing will not even show negative values and only one set of data can be viewed at any one time.

All the programs do really require a disc drive to store data—using a cassette drive is rather clumsy—and so the real cost of the full system, less printer is getting high.

On the whole I think that Commodore could have done a lot better than this.



The limited scope of the software will unfortunately mean that the Plus/4 is unlikely to find favour—as Commodore has indicated it should—with small businesses. As the Plus/4's official launch has reached Howard Roark, general manager of Commodore UK, did admit: "A typical buyer will not be running a business using the Plus/4—if so it will be a very small business."

The Plus/4 was good—it's a little overpriced, at \$299—much more better by its integrated software. So don't buy the machine just for its software.



Pulling a few strings

L. Herriman demonstrates the pulley system known as Atwood's machine in micro form

The program demonstrates a simple pulley system known as 'Atwood's Machine' in which two masses are connected by a light inextensible string passing over a smooth inextensible pulley.

The acceleration of the two masses and tension in the string are calculated after values for the two masses have been entered. A diagram shows the directions of the forces, and each step of the calculation is clearly displayed. The two answers given for each are the acceleration only, and

acceleration due to gravity. Gravity is taken as 9.81 m/sec², but may be changed to any N.

The program uses the equation from Newton's Second Law, Force = mass \times acceleration ($F = ma$). When applying this to our pulley system, the smaller mass will always move upwards, as the tension in the string is greater than its weight, ie, tension - weight = upward force. The larger mass moves down, obviously, with a force of weight - tension ($= m \times a$). Note that if the

masses are the same, the system remains stationary in equilibrium.

To make the program self contained, the tension value is printed at the start, but this can be left out by deleting line 5 and lines 400 to 403.

Program notes

- 5-30 Inputs masses and asks for whether it is the smaller.
- 35-100 Prints out answers.
- 105-150 Works through equation to find acceleration.
- 155-175 Substitutes value of acceleration in the force equation and finds tension.
- 180-190 Generates four graphics.
- 200-280 Prints out screen.
- 400-403 PAUSE and RETURN.

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"PULLEY"

-Atwood's Machine-
1/2" Level mechanics:

```

5 CLG : 50 GUC 400
REM For instructions only
10 GO SUB 200 LET B=DRAW 140
+CHRG 35 LET A=B-50 TO 35
20 GO 50.0, 200
30 INPUT "Enter value of each
mass: " ; a1, a2
40 IF a1=a2 THEN LET a=a1 GO T
D 70
50 IF a1<a2 THEN LET a=a1 LET
a2=a GO T 70
60 PRINT AT 51.1, "Using mass
as an equilibrium. PAUSE 500. G
O T 70
70 PRINT AT 10, 50; a1, "a", AT 0
5, 25; "a2", a2
80 PRINT AT 5, 50; "From Newton's
2nd L"
90 PRINT "F=ma" ; a1, "is mass  $\times$ 
accel" ; a1, "Tension" ; a2, "Tension"
100 PRINT "For " ; a2, "is mass  $\times$ 
accel" ; a2, "Tension" ; a1, "Tension"
110 PRINT "is a1, "a" ; a1, "a" ; a
120 PRINT "is a2, "a" ; a2, "a"
130 PRINT "is a1, "a" ; a1, "a"
140 PRINT "is a2, "a" ; a2, "a"
150 PRINT "is a1, "a" ; a1, "a"
160 PRINT "is a2, "a" ; a2, "a"
170 PRINT "is a1, "a" ; a1, "a"
180 PRINT "is a2, "a" ; a2, "a"
190 PRINT "is a1, "a" ; a1, "a"
200 PRINT "is a2, "a" ; a2, "a"
210 PRINT "is a1, "a" ; a1, "a"
220 PRINT "is a2, "a" ; a2, "a"
230 PRINT "is a1, "a" ; a1, "a"
240 PRINT "is a2, "a" ; a2, "a"
250 PRINT "is a1, "a" ; a1, "a"
260 PRINT "is a2, "a" ; a2, "a"
270 PRINT "is a1, "a" ; a1, "a"
280 PRINT "is a2, "a" ; a2, "a"
290 PRINT "is a1, "a" ; a1, "a"
300 PRINT "is a2, "a" ; a2, "a"
310 PRINT "is a1, "a" ; a1, "a"
320 PRINT "is a2, "a" ; a2, "a"
330 PRINT "is a1, "a" ; a1, "a"
340 PRINT "is a2, "a" ; a2, "a"
350 PRINT "is a1, "a" ; a1, "a"
360 PRINT "is a2, "a" ; a2, "a"
370 PRINT "is a1, "a" ; a1, "a"
380 PRINT "is a2, "a" ; a2, "a"
390 PRINT "is a1, "a" ; a1, "a"
400 PRINT "is a2, "a" ; a2, "a"
410 PRINT "is a1, "a" ; a1, "a"
420 PRINT "is a2, "a" ; a2, "a"
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440 PRINT "is a2, "a" ; a2, "a"
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550 PRINT "is a1, "a" ; a1, "a"
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580 PRINT "is a2, "a" ; a2, "a"
590 PRINT "is a1, "a" ; a1, "a"
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610 PRINT "is a1, "a" ; a1, "a"
620 PRINT "is a2, "a" ; a2, "a"
630 PRINT "is a1, "a" ; a1, "a"
640 PRINT "is a2, "a" ; a2, "a"
650 PRINT "is a1, "a" ; a1, "a"
660 PRINT "is a2, "a" ; a2, "a"
670 PRINT "is a1, "a" ; a1, "a"
680 PRINT "is a2, "a" ; a2, "a"
690 PRINT "is a1, "a" ; a1, "a"
700 PRINT "is a2, "a" ; a2, "a"
710 PRINT "is a1, "a" ; a1, "a"
720 PRINT "is a2, "a" ; a2, "a"
730 PRINT "is a1, "a" ; a1, "a"
740 PRINT "is a2, "a" ; a2, "a"
750 PRINT "is a1, "a" ; a1, "a"
760 PRINT "is a2, "a" ; a2, "a"
770 PRINT "is a1, "a" ; a1, "a"
780 PRINT "is a2, "a" ; a2, "a"
790 PRINT "is a1, "a" ; a1, "a"
800 PRINT "is a2, "a" ; a2, "a"
810 PRINT "is a1, "a" ; a1, "a"
820 PRINT "is a2, "a" ; a2, "a"
830 PRINT "is a1, "a" ; a1, "a"
840 PRINT "is a2, "a" ; a2, "a"
850 PRINT "is a1, "a" ; a1, "a"
860 PRINT "is a2, "a" ; a2, "a"
870 PRINT "is a1, "a" ; a1, "a"
880 PRINT "is a2, "a" ; a2, "a"
890 PRINT "is a1, "a" ; a1, "a"
900 PRINT "is a2, "a" ; a2, "a"
910 PRINT "is a1, "a" ; a1, "a"
920 PRINT "is a2, "a" ; a2, "a"
930 PRINT "is a1, "a" ; a1, "a"
940 PRINT "is a2, "a" ; a2, "a"
950 PRINT "is a1, "a" ; a1, "a"
960 PRINT "is a2, "a" ; a2, "a"
970 PRINT "is a1, "a" ; a1, "a"
980 PRINT "is a2, "a" ; a2, "a"
990 PRINT "is a1, "a" ; a1, "a"
1000 PRINT "is a2, "a" ; a2, "a"

```

```

200 BORDER 5 PAPER 5, INK 5, C
L9
270 PRINT AT 0, 7, INVERSE 1; "AT
WOOD'S MACHINE"
300 PLOT 210, 144, CIRCLE 210, 14
400
500 PLOT 190, 144, DRAW 0, -50, D
600 1, 5, DRAW 0, 70
700 PLOT 240, 144, DRAW 0, -110
800 1, 5, DRAW 0, 160
900 PRINT AT 0, 54, CCHR 144, "T",
AT 0, 5, "Tension"
1000 PRINT INK 1, AT 14, 54; CHR 1
1100 AT 10, 54, CHR 143
1200 PLOT AT 10, 54, INK 5, CHR 1
1300 AT 10, 10, CHR 140
1400 INK 5, PLOT 170, 54, DRAW 0,
1500 1, 5, DRAW 0, -50
1600 PLOT AT 0, 55, CHR 144, INK
1700 PLOT AT 7, 55, "T"
1800 PRINT AT 1, 5, "To find, T"
1900 PLOT 170, 104, DRAW 0, -100
2000 RETURN
2100 GOTO 1000; instructions
2200 RESTORE 110, PRINT "TAB 11:
"NOTATION": LET 0=.....
2300 "F=ma" ; a1 TO 0, READ 70
2400 PRINT "TAB 3, 70; 1, 50; TO
2500 "L=ma" ; a1
2600 NEXT 70
2700 DATA "Tension", "acceleration",
"gravitational accel.", "Hertz"
2800 PRINT "TAB 0, "Press any K
2900
3000 PAUSE 5, RESTORE, RETURN
3100 END "PULLEY LINE 1 OVER"
V 50

```

To find T
From Newton's 2nd
Law, F=ma

For 1st mass, T=mg
T=mg-ma

For 2nd mass, T=mg
mg-T=ma

2a+2g=2g-5a
2a+5a=2g-2g
7a=0
or 2a=2g/7

sub in 1st equation

T=2a+2g
T=2g/7+2g or T=2a+10g/7
T=10g/7 or T=2g





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JON PERTWEE
MEL CROUCHER
DONNA BAILEY
and FRANKIE HOWARD in

DEVS EX MACHINA

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY MEL CROUCHER
AND JON SPECTUM PRODUCE AND PRESENTS

This way to the dump ...

Peter Whittaker explains how to set up a machine code hi-res screen dump

The Dragon's 32-resolution screen is made up of 320 × 192 pixels, which are organized into 160 rows of 32 bytes each. If a pixel is set on the screen, the relevant bit (by set) to a 1, and if the pixel is reset the bit is cleared. This format is not immediately compatible with the Tektronix Format 1 video pinouts a column of seven data at a time. (Fig. 1.1)

A basic screen dump can be written using the `FFrom(x,y)` command, but it is very slow. Machine code is much faster. Assembler #1 (memory dump #2) is a small screen dump program using little over half the processor's capability. Assembler #2 (memory dump #1) is a double-sized screen dump using the processor's full width.

Instead of the `FFFF` command, we use the machine code equivalent of the `And` function. By And'ing a register and test byte, we set only the bits in the register which are also set in the test byte, and clear all the rest. The test byte is unaffected. If we load the `A` register with `#11` and we `And` it with `#31`, the test byte will still contain `#31`, but the `A` register will now contain `#3` (Fig. 2).

To test *Efficient02*, we load the relevant input into *A*, *data*, *idbquery*, and *And* from *4-000*, *4-000A*, *4-000B*. If the second test set, *A*, will

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By dividing a column of seven bytes, we can build up a byte (00 Hex) to send to the printer. The function through we want to use is the first bit of 00 Hex, and the second bit of the second pass on. This is quite straightforward in program. It is easier to set the eighth bit each loop, and to clear all the bits one byte out.

That is done using the `last` command. (Fig 3.) Having moved all the last one place right, a place `0` in the eighth bit. (Among the same items will move the first ten bits the eighth position to the first, the second to the second one. All we need to do is add `#128` (`0x80`, `#128`) to tell the printer that this is graphics data, and send it to the printer (by `write`).

Tracing through the columns of bytes each driver, once for each bit, we need to decrease the number we are finding with the bytes (shift) using the `<<` command again. When `driver` falls to 0, we know that we have completed that column and can move onto the next.

The next thing to check is whether or not we have reached the end of the line. Here the Dragon memory layout is very convenient. There are 20 bytes across the memory

and by `Address` any byte address in `uint`. #31 (1032-1040, 1041-1042) now discovers how far across the screen we are. (Fig. 4.17) When the `B` register returns `-1`, we know that we have reached the end of this line and started the next. A carriage return is sent to the printer, and the pointer is incremented by 160 to get to the start of the next block of screen lines. A `char` is made in machine zero and the end of the screen had not yet been reached, and the program continues. The last thing the program does is print a `Char(10)` to return to the next mode.

To use the printer to the full, we need to double up the size of the screen dump. However, nothing is for free, and because the printer only prints 480 dots to a line (twice 240 "lines" = 480) we lose the right hand edge of the screen. The problem is the same as for the small screen dump, except that we are printing each dot twice. When we scroll the bits in 240mm the AArch command is used and then the AArch. This means that the right bit is not cleared with the first scroll (Fig 2). Similarly instead of sending a column of screen pixels to the printer, we are sending three and a half, each twice. The first line of print we need pixels 1,1,2,2,3,3,4,4 and the second 4,4,5,5,6,6,7,7 and so on.

Before leaving these programs enter PCcard/Mixed/ATCh. Remember to protect the programs with CleanDisk009 and to call them Exec000.

[illegible][illegible]

Fig. 1. The effect of 1000 mg/kg BW of ...

FIG. 1. The effect of the concentration of the solution on the rate of the reaction.



Fig. 4. AMCase from *B. megaterium* with pH 1 as final condition, 200°C, 10 min.

DEFENDANT 1: CHALL SCREEN BLIND

[illegible]

MEMORY COMP. #1. BIG SCREEN Unit

項目	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	2101	2102	2103	2104	2105	2106	2107	2108	2109	2110	2111	2112	2113	2114	2115	2116	2117	2118	2119	2120	2121	2122	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127	2128	2129	2130	2131	2132	2133	2134	2135	2136	2137	2138	2139	2140	2141	2142	2143	2144	2145	2146	2147	2148	2149	2150	2151	2152	2153	2154	2155	2156	2157	2158	2159	2160	2161	2162	2163	2164	2165	2166	2167	2168	2169	2170	2171	2172	2173	2174	2175	2176	2177	2178	2179	2180	2181	2182	2183	2184	2185	2186	2187	2188	2189	2190	2191	2192	2193	2194	2195	2196	2197	2198	2199	2200	2201	2202	2203	2204	2205	2206	2207	2208	2209	2210	2211	2212	2213	2214	2215	2216	2217	2218	2219	2220	2221	2222	2223	2224	2225	2226	2227	2228	2229	2230	2231	2232	2233	2234	2235	2236	2237	2238	2239	2240	2241	2242	2243	2244	2245	2246	2247	2248	2249	2250	2251	2252	2253	2254	2255	2256	2257	2258	2259	2260	2261	2262	2263	2264	2265	2266	2267	2268	2269	2270	2271	2272	2273	2274	2275	2276	2277	2278	2279	2280	2281	2282	2283	2284	2285	2286	2287	2288	2289	2290	2291	2292	2293	2294	2295	2296	2297	2298	2299	2300	2301	2302	2303	2304	2305	2306	2307	2308	2309	2310	2311	2312	2313	2314	2315	2316	2317	2318	2319	2320	2321	2322	2323	2324	2325	2326	2327	2328	2329	2330	2331	2332	2333	2334	2335	2336	2337	2338	2339	2340	2341	2342	2343	2344	2345	2346	2347	2348	2349	2350	2351	2352	2353	2354	2355	2356	2357	2358	2359	2360	2361	2362	2363	2364	2365	2366	2367	2368	2369	2370	2371	2372	2373	2374	2375	2376	2377	2378	2379	2380	2381	2382	2383	2384	2385	2386	2387	2388	2389	2390	2391	2392	2393	2394	2395	2396	2397	2398	2399	2400	2401	2402	2403	2404	2405	2406	2407	2408	2409	2410	2411	2412	2413	2414	2415	2416	2417	2418	2419	2420	2421	2422	2423	2424	2425	2426	2427	2428	2429	2430	2431	2432	2433	2434	2435	2436	2437	2438	2439	2440	2441	2442	2443	2444	2445	2446	2447	2448	2449	2450	2451	2452	2453	2454	2455	2456	2457	2458	2459	2460	2461	2462	2463	2464	2465	2466	2467	2468	2469	2470	2471	2472	2473	2474	2475	2476	2477	2478	2479	2480	2481	2482	2483	2484	2485	2486	2487	2488	2489	2490	2491	2492	2493	2494	2495	2496	2497	2498	2499	2500	2501	2502	2503	2504	2505	2506	2507	2508	2509	2510	2511	2512	2513	2514	2515	2516	2517	2518	2519	2520	2521	2522	2523	2524	2525	2526	2527	2528	2529	2530	2531	2532	2533	2534	2535	2536	2537	2538	2539	2540	2541	2542	2543	2544	2545	2546	2547	2548	2549	2550	2551	2552	2553	2554	2555	2556	2557	2558	2559	2560	2561	2562	2563	2564	2565	2566	2567	2568	2569	2570	2571	2572	2573	2574	2575	2576	2577	2578	2579	2580	2581	2582	2583	2584	2585	2586	2587	2588	2589	2590	2591	2592	2593	2594	2595	2596	2597	2598	2599	2600	2601	2602	2603	2604	2605	2606	2607	2608	2609	2610	2611	2612	2613	2614	2615	2616	2617	2618	2619	2620	2621	2622	2623	2624	2625	2626	2627	2628	2629	2630	2631	2632	2633	2634	2635	2636	2637	2638	2639	2640	2641	2642	2643	2644	2645	2646	2647	2648	2649	2650	2651	2652	2653	2654	2655	2656	2657	2658	2659	2660	2661	2662	2663	2664	2665	2666	2667	2668	2669	2670	2671	2672	2673	2674	2675	2676	2677	2678	2679	2680	2681	2682	2683	2684	2685	2686	2687	2688	2689	2690	2691	2692	2693	2694	2695	2696	2697	2698	2699	2700	2701	2702	2703	2704	2705	2706	2707	2708	2709	2710	2711	2712	2713	2714	2715	2716	2717	2718	2719	2720	2721	2722	2723	2724	2725	2726	2727	2728	2729	2730	2731	2732	2733	2734	2735	2736	2737	2738	2739	2740	2741	2742	2743	2744	2745	2746	2747	2748	2749	2750	2751	2752	2753	2754	2755	2756	2757	2758	2759	2760	2761	2762	2763	2764	2765	2766	2767	2768	2769	2770	2771	2772	2773	2774	2775	2776	2777	2778	2779	2780	2781	2782	2783	2784	2785	2786	2787	2788	2789	2790	2791	2792	2793	2794	2795	2796	2797	2798	2799	2800	2801	2802	2803	2804	2805	2806	2807	2808	2809	2810	2811	2812	2813	2814	2815	2816	2817	2818	2819	2820	2821	2822	2823	2824	2825	2826	2827	2828	2829	2830	2831	2832	2833	2834	2835	2836	2837	2838	2839	2840	2841	2842	2843	2844	2845	2846	2847	2848	2849	2850	2851	2852	2853	2854	2855	2856	2857	2858	2859	2860	2861	2862	2863	2864	2865	2866	2867	2868	2869	2870	2871	2872	2873	2874	2875	2876	2877	2878	2879	2880	2881	2882	2883	2884	2885	2886	2887	2888	2889	2890	2891	2892	2893	2894	2895	2896	2897	2898	2899	2900	2901	2902	2903	2904	2905	2906	2907	2908	2909	2910	2911	2912	2913	2914	2915	2916	2917	2918	2919	2920	2921	2922	2923	2924	2925	2926	2927	2928	2929	2930	2931	2932	2933	2934	2935	2936	2937	2938	2939	2940	2941	2942	2943	2944	2945	2946	2947	2948	2949	2950	2951	2952	2953	2954	2955	2956	2957	2958	2959	2960	2961	2962	2963	2964	2965	2966	2967	2968	2969	2970	2971	2972	2973	2974	2975	2976	2977	2978	2979	2980	2981	2982	2983	2984	2985	2986	2987	2988	2989	2990	2991	2992	2993	2994	2995	2996	2997	2998	2999	3000
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PHOTOPHOSPHORYLATION: EFFECT OF LIGHT INTENSITY ON THE RATE OF PHOTOPHOSPHORYLATION

[illegible]

The Rom approach

Alan Turnbull reveals the dark secrets of the QL ROM

One of the first things the new QL owner must surely do is examine the read-only memory (Rom) of his or her machine and find out how the whole thing works.

With the Standard QL, that may prove difficult as there are at least five versions of the machine in existence, code-named FM, PM, AM and the latest, RM.

Version FM was the very first with Rom; however, numerous to mention, Version PM was a vast improvement but, Sinclair said, FM was to be the final Rom.

As ever true to their word, Sinclair brought out a new Rom, called PM, which "puts right all major Rom bugs, implements multi-tasking and makes Superbasic much faster". Apparently, all customers will be offered an up-grade to this version by a direct mail operation which involves you posting your previous QL off to Cambridge, and Sinclair engineers plugging in the new Rom chips.

Meanwhile, if you are lucky enough to own the quite respectable version AM (and you can find out by typing **PRINT ROM** at your console), this article may prove very useful if you want to reveal the dark secrets of the QL Rom.

The program in Figure 1 gives a tabulated dump of two special tables in the QL Rom. The first table, residing at address 0000 in version AM, lists all command keywords and their routine module address. The second table at address 2200 lists all function keywords and their routine module address.

Each table is held identically in the following format:

number of entries

line module address offset
number of characters in first keyword
first keyword

second module address offset
number of characters in second keyword
second keyword

and so on.

The Superbasic procedure Tabular in Figure 1 automatically tabulates on the QL screen any table held in this format, given its start address. Suitable alterations will allow output through the serial ports to a printer.

The output from the program is shown in Figure 2 and, counting thus far, and looking through the Rom contents at the addresses given may reveal many secrets.

For instance, any of the commands which take zero or optional parameters, such as Rom, List, Screen, Pause, etc, may be called directly from Superbasic using the Goll

command. For example, to list all of the current program memory type Goll ROM.

In fact, if you wish to call your own machine code routine in Rom from SuperBasic, you should make sure the MCM68000 data register D0 holds zero before doing a RTS, A0, AM should not be altered. It is used by SuperBasic and ROM as a pointer; similar instruction is the RT index register on the QL Spectrum.

If D0 holds a number between 000 and 005 inclusive, the QL will use this as an error number. D0 = 000 gives "Bad line", 001 gives "Bad only" and so on up to 005, which

gives "No complete".

Calling routines like Goll is of no direct benefit — just distraction. It gives these Rom routine addresses, the adventures programmer could find out how to load and save Microdrive files or draw screens from machine code.

It must be noted, however, that while most of the command routines may be called directly the function routines cannot. This is because the number of each function is placed in an area of Rom analogous to the QL Spectrum's "calculator stack", ready for picking up by the expression evaluator, and hence no return is made to the Superbasic user.

It is hoped, nonetheless, that readers will find the routine and output presented in this article useful and that they, too, will delve into the secrets of the QL Rom.

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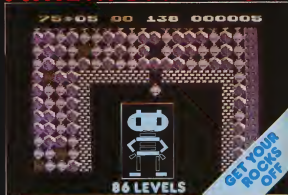
100 REMARK: Program to tabulate routine addresses in QL ROM
101 REMARK: List ROM-PM-AM-Standard ROMs Alan Turnbull, 1985
102
103 REM ROM 000
104
105 GOTO 001
106
107 REM ROM 001
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109 GOTO 002
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111 REM ROM 002
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113 GOTO 003
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115 REM ROM 003
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117 GOTO 004
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119 REM ROM 004
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121 GOTO 005
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123 REM ROM 005
124
125 GOTO 006
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127 REM ROM 006
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129 GOTO 007
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131 REM ROM 007
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133 GOTO 008
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135 REM ROM 008
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137 GOTO 009
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139 REM ROM 009
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141 GOTO 010
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143 REM ROM 010
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145 GOTO 011
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147 REM ROM 011
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497 GOTO 099
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499 REM ROM 099
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501 GOTO 100
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503 REM ROM 100
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505 GOTO 101
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507 REM ROM 101
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509 GOTO 102
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511 REM ROM 102
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513 GOTO 103
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515 REM ROM 103
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517 GOTO 104
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519 REM ROM 104
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521 GOTO 105
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525 GOTO 106
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531 REM ROM 107
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535 REM ROM 108
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537 GOTO 109
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539 REM ROM 109
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541 GOTO 110
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997 GOTO 224
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999 REM ROM 224
1000

```

Figure 1

Command	Module	Address	Offset	Length	Keyword	Module	Address	Offset	Length	Keyword	Module	Address	Offset	Length	Keyword
PRINT	000000	0000	0000	0000	PRINT	000000	0000	0000	0000	PRINT	000000	0000	0000	0000	PRINT
LIST	000000	0000	0000	0000	LIST	000000	0000	0000	0000	LIST	000000	0000	0000	0000	LIST
STOP	000000	0000	0000	0000	STOP	000000	0000	0000	0000	STOP	000000	0000	0000	0000	STOP
END	000000	0000	0000	0000	END	000000	0000	0000	0000	END	000000	0000	0000	0000	END
CALL	000000	0000	0000	0000	CALL	000000	0000	0000	0000	CALL	000000	0000	0000	0000	CALL
RETURN	000000	0000	0000	0000	RETURN	000000	0000	0000	0000	RETURN	000000	0000	0000	0000	RETURN
FOR	000000	0000	0000	0000	FOR	000000	0000	0000	0000	FOR	000000	0000	0000	0000	FOR
NEXT	000000	0000	0000	0000	NEXT	000000	0000	0000	0000	NEXT	000000	0000	0000	0000	NEXT
IF	000000	0000	0000	0000	IF	000000	0000	0000	0000	IF	000000	0000	0000	0000	IF
THEN	000000	0000	0000	0000	THEN	000000	0000	0000	0000	THEN	000000	0000	0000	0000	THEN
ELSE	000000	0000	0000	0000	ELSE	000000	0000	0000	0000	ELSE	000000	0000	0000	0000	ELSE
ENDIF	000000	0000	0000	0000	ENDIF	000000	0000	0000	0000	ENDIF	000000	0000	0000	0000	ENDIF
DO	000000	0000	0000	0000	DO	000000	0000	0000	0000	DO	000000	0000	0000	0000	DO
UNTIL	000000	0000	0000	0000	UNTIL	000000	0000	0000	0000	UNTIL	000000	0000	0000	0000	UNTIL
WHILE	000000	0000	0000	0000	WHILE	000000	0000	0000	0000	WHILE	000000	0000	0000	0000	WHILE
WEND	000000	0000	0000	0000	WEND	000000	0000	0000	0000	WEND	000000	0000	0000	0000	WEND
REPEAT	000000	0000	0000	0000	REPEAT	000000	0000	0000	0000	REPEAT	000000	0000	0000	0000	REPEAT
UNTIL	000000	0000	0000	0000	UNTIL	000000	0000	0000	0000	UNTIL	000000	0000	0000	0000	UNTIL
FOR	000000	0000	0000	0000	FOR	000000	0000	0000	0000	FOR	000000	0000	0000	0000	FOR
NEXT	000000	0000	0000	0000	NEXT	000000	0000	0000	0000	NEXT	000000	0000	0000	0000	NEXT
IF	000000	0000	0000	0000	IF	000000	0000	0000	0000	IF	000000	0000	0000	0000	IF
THEN	000000	0000	0000	0000	THEN	000000	0000	0000	0000	THEN	000000	0000	0000	0000	THEN
ELSE	000000	0000	0000	0000	ELSE	000000	0000	0000	0000	ELSE	000000	0000	0000	0000	ELSE
ENDIF	000000	0000	0000	0000	ENDIF	000000	0000	0000	0000	ENDIF	000000	0000	0000	0000	ENDIF
DO	000000	0000	0000	0000	DO	000000	0000	0000	0000	DO	000000	0000	0000	0000	DO
UNTIL	000000	0000	0000	0000	UNTIL	000000	0000	0000	0000	UNTIL	000000	0000	0000	0000	UNTIL
WHILE	000000	0000	0000	0000	WHILE	000000	0000	0000	0000	WHILE	000000	0000	0000	0000	WHILE
WEND	000000	0000	0000	0000	WEND	000000	0000	0000	0000	WEND	000000	0000	0000	0000	WEND
REPEAT	000000	0000	0000	0000	REPEAT	000000	0000	0000	0000	REPEAT	000000	0000	0000	0000	REPEAT

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who can personally
successfully
every day.

When a host game is rejected, players are not allowed to join the other game. If a player has been rejected from one game, it is possible that they will be rejected from another game.

[illegible]

Table 1. *Continued*

[illegible]

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Off at a tangent

Mark Cornell explains how trig functions work on the Commodore 64

These programs should help explain how microprocessors calculate values of sine, cosine and tangent, but first you need a little background information.

Before calculators came along, trigonometrical values were found by looking at books of mathematical tables. Nowadays, the easiest thing to do would be to place these same tables in the machine, but this would use far too much memory. Instead, they are worked out using MacLaurin's Theorem.

MacLaurin's Theorem is a complex power

series, so fast you might have guessed its complexity from the time it takes a calculator to work out a simple trig function. For anyone that remembers power series, the numbers in the brackets in these programs (1/720 and 720/2, 4, 24, 120 ...) are factorials of the powers in the same set of brackets.

The Theorem only works if the angle is expressed in radians, so lines 700-710 convert the angle values if you prefer working in radians, simply change line 700 to: 700 INPUT "CLAR: Enter Angle In Radians", X and omit line 710.

Now, on a different tack, we all know that two equals are divided by the two. Therefore, to calculate the tan, the computer calculates first the sin, then the cos, and finally calculates the tan (lines 514-520, program 1). You can see that it should take longer to work out tan, because the computer must do two complicated calculations instead of one.

To prove this to yourself, type in program 2, run it, and note down the time shown by the digital clock. Then change line 40 to 40 Print Tan (2).

Run the program again and check the time. Think about the results and compare them to what I've been saying.

Hopefully you should now understand a little more about how trig functions work on your Commodore 64.

Program 1

```

0 REM *** MACLAURIN'S THEOREM - MARK G.
100 REM ***
1 POKES3280,11:POKES3281,11:POKE644,0:REM
*** SET SCREEN ***
200 INPUT "CLAR: SIN, COS, TAN (S,C,T)?"A$:REM
*** SET FUNCTION ***
210 IF A$="S" THEN 300
220 IF A$="C" THEN 400
230 IF A$="T" THEN 500
240 GOTO 200
297 :
298 :
399 REM *** SIN ***
300 GOSUB 700
310 S1=0-C+E-G+I:REM *** CALCULATE SIN ***
320 PRINT "CLAR:MACLAURIN'S THEOREM SAYS:"
330 PRINT S1
340 PRINT "CUBO:THE COMPUTER SAYS:"
350 PRINT SIN(1)
360 GETA$:IFA$="" THEN 340
370 GOTO 200
397 :
398 :
399 REM *** COS ***
400 GOSUB 700
410 C5=1-B+D-F+H-J:REM *** CALCULATE COS ***
420 PRINT "CLAR:MACLAURIN'S THEOREM SAYS:"
430 PRINT C5
440 PRINT "CUBO:THE COMPUTER SAYS:"
450 PRINT COS(1)
460 GETA$:IFA$="" THEN 400
470 GOTO 200
497 :
498 :
499 REM *** TAN ***
500 GOSUB 700
510 S1=S-C+E-G+I:C5=1-B+D-F+H-J:REM ***
CALCULATE SIN AND COS ***

```

```

530 TA=S/J:CO=REM *** CALCULATE TAN ***
530 PRINT "CLAR:MACLAURIN'S THEOREM SAYS:"
540 PRINT TA
550 PRINT "CUBO:THE COMPUTER SAYS:"
560 PRINT TAN(1)
570 GETA$:IFA$="" THEN 500
580 GOTO 200
597 :
598 :
699 REM *** SET ANGLE ***
700 INPUT "CLAR:ENTER ANGLE IN DEGREE'S?"A
710 J=(A*3.14159265)/180:REM *** CHANGE TO
RADIAN ***
717 :
718 :
719 REM *** DEFINE TERMS OF POWER
SERIES ***
720 B=((X*2)/22)+C=((X*3)/60)+D=((X*4)/24)+
E=((X*5)/120)+F=((X*6)/720)
730 G=((X*7)/5040)+H=((X*8)/40320)+I=
((X*9)/362880)+J=((X*10)/3628800)
740 RETURN

```

Program 2

```

10 REM *** FUNCTION TEST ***
20 TI$="000000":PRINT "CLAR"
30 FOR I=1 TO 1000
40 PRINT SIN(I)
50 NEXT I
60 PRINT "TIME=";TI$

```

Thousands of Micro owners have yet to discover that their computer can help with many of the problems and decisions that come up every day in the home or office.

Perhaps you have always promised yourself that you would learn programming, but have been put off by manuals which seem to contain a tedious jargon, matching computer science. Maybe you have yet to find a book which is free of unnecessary jargon and where the examples bear some relevance to real life and not

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space invaders.

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Open Forum

Open Forum is for you to publish your programs and ideas. Take care that the listings you send in are all bug-free. Your documentation should start with a general description of the program and what it does and then give some detail of how the program is constructed.

Stitcher

on Dragon

This program consists of the computer drawing dots around the perimeter of an arbitrary rectangle, and then drawing lines from the last corner of the screen to

the dots. An interesting "winked" pattern is built up as the dots are drawn. The computer does this seven times, increasing the distance between the dots by 2 pixels each time.

Program notes

- (1) See screen high resolution.
- (2) Increases the pixel between the dots by 2 pixels (2)

```
100 REM *****STITCHER*****
200 REM *****L. L. LITCHER*****
300 PBASE=4:COLOR=8:SIMPLE_SCREEN=1:
40 G=4
50 PCLS
60 S=S+2:IF S>255 THEN GOTO 340
70 A=64:B=255:C=40:D=144
80 PSET(B,A)
90 LINE(B,A)-(B,A),PSET
100 LINE(255,B)-(B,A),PSET
110 LINE(B,255)-(B,A),PSET
120 LINE(255,152)-(B,A),PSET
130 IF B=64 THEN GOTO 150
140 B=B-5:GOTO 80
150 PSET(B,A)
160 LINE(B,A)-(B,A),PSET
170 LINE(255,B)-(B,A),PSET
180 LINE(B,255)-(B,A),PSET
190 LINE(255,152)-(B,A),PSET
200 A=A+5:IF A>144 THEN GOTO 230
```

```
210 GOTO 150
220 PSET(B,A)
230 LINE(B,B)-(B,A),PSET
240 LINE(255,B)-(B,A),PSET
250 LINE(B,255)-(B,A),PSET
260 LINE(255,152)-(B,A),PSET
270 B=B+5:IF B>152 THEN GOTO 290
280 GOTO 230
290 PSET(B,A)
300 LINE(B,B)-(B,A),PSET
310 LINE(255,B)-(B,A),PSET
320 LINE(B,255)-(B,A),PSET
330 LINE(255,152)-(B,A),PSET
340 A=A-5:IF A<40 THEN GOTO 360
350 GOTO 230
360 FOR I=1 TO 1000:NEXT I:GOTO 50
370 FOR J=0 TO 1000:NEXT J:GOTO 30
```

Stitcher

by Michael Lawton

Microradio

GWSUN



Animated

A strategy how to catch up with some of the new software in the radio computing field. A letter received from Fastlane Data announces a Spectrum version of the Morse Code reading program for the Edlin, that was reviewed a few weeks ago in Microradio.

Also from Fastlane Data comes a Micro Construction and Animation program for the Spectrum. This will enable the

user to create animated scenes or cartoons of up to 15 scenes duration which will certainly appeal to the amateur television enthusiasts. Contact Fastlane Data at 44 Pinesham Park, West Moss, Wiltshire, Glos., for more information. I hope to review these two programs soon in Microradio.

Once again, Grosvenor Software has been extremely busy with the release of three new Radio Teletype (RTTY) trans and transmit programs for the Yaesu, Commodore FM and Arris Aries. Following on from the incredible RTTY programs for the Dragon reviewed in Microradio some months ago, Michael Kerry GARET in the shape of Grosvenor Software, has probably done more than anyone else in making this fascinating mode of communication possible.

Combined with Roger Barber of GAREE Microsystems, who has done the same for the Spectrum, Radio Teletype is now available cheaply for the most popular machines on the market. The new Grosvenor programs will be reviewed in a future Microradio, but further information can be obtained from Grosvenor Software, 31 Grosvenor Road, Seaford, East Sussex BN21 3BJ.

Ken Dutton of Dingwell, Ross-shire, writes asking how to get into radio computing, pointing out that he has a BBC. The best advice I can offer, Ken, is to point you in the direction of HAMTOP, the radio-computing user group who deal with several matters but especially the BBC. HAMTOP can be contacted at Gwyn Hilling Factory, Ormskilling, Northampton.

For those people with duplicate microcassettes a radio computing, the user group is HAMTOP 3 Red House Lane, Lenton, Salford. I must ask anyone contacting user groups to include a stamped addressed envelope to be sure of a reply. The same goes for letters to Microradio, of course. Microradio users interested in radio-computing will find a sympathetic ear in the shape of Dave West, 129 Old Stone Road, Aylesbury, Bucks, who wants to contact like-minded Microcrackers.

Ray Beatty GWSUN

This series of articles is designed to make microcomputers and software easier if you have any queries that you need answered, write and type in them or help that you need. It is not covered, used by the Group. Please write to: Microcrackers, 129 Old Stone Road, Aylesbury, Bucks. MK20 9LD.

Tony Bridge's Adventure Corner



A unique game

Nick Wallgate who I mentioned in last week's Corner, wrote to me to say that he had won *Commodore 64* in Yorkshire TV's *The Game* — congratulations, Nick, a job share with reading the corner can do for you.

Deliciously, he's not too impressed with the adventure he's loaded into it, *Kingdoms of Elan and Kings of Power* both dull and slow. "One nobody recommended a classic C64 adventure?" he asks. Well, there are many *Amstrad* programs available, most of which are of a high standard. One problem, however, is that a day alone is almost essential in order to enjoy them if you can stretch your budget to this, you'll find no better place to purchase the *Dark Trilogy*, from *Infocom*, which has just been released by *Commodore* at a very attractive low price (and, if you require a disc drive, tape, bag or borrow a copy of *Microbit's Flight Simulator II*). It's a pity that you have completed so many home-grown adventures on the *Spectrum*, as many of the best ones, for instance, the *Lemmings*, are also available for the *Commodore*, and would be an automatic recommendation.

On to my main subject this week — "The Ice Crown" has been developed, victory to the Frost! or, alternatively, "Helmick has fallen" Victory to the Frost! It's not a wondrous thing when the seasons turn you are one of the fortunate band of Lords of Midnight! This is the adventure-strategy game from Beyond which is doing so well in the software charts.

The *Grand Ill* has had many letters about this wonderful game. Two came in the same post from the last people to be on the scene of their success in *Kingdom I of H* — the first was from Steve Baker of *Leicester* (postmarked 7 May, 8 July), and the second was from Dean Beale of *Thames*, who asked: "Am I the first?" Dean's letter was postmarked 15 May, 8 July, so yes, Dean, you are the first to let *The Grand Ill* know. At about the same time came the news that four people had contacted Beyond — you'll remember that there is a unique computer open to *Midnight* players. At each step along the way to finishing the game the present season may be changed to a spring, and the resulting seasonal mood and in the first truly computer-generated "novel".

There are two ways of achieving success at *Ill* — by setting forth with your character Markin, as an adventure quest to destroy the Ice Crown, which is resident in the Tower of Doom, and which is the source of Doomsday's power. Or the player can aim for a strategic victory, and seize the Citadel of Helmsick, north of the Plains of Despair, from whence Doomsday controls his evil forces.

Dean doesn't reveal his method, but Steve took the Citadel with his force of six thousand men — a took like 300 days of game time. There is an interesting distinction over which is the easier method. The majority of people seem to find the "adventure-quest" easier, but there is a growing band who seem to revel in the more taxing "military" game. Actually most players will probably find, like Richard Alexander of *London C64*, that a combination of the two is the best approach — as the game progresses, one or other of the two groups of attack will become stronger and defeat the course of events. The best strategy is, I believe, to send Markin off on his quest, while keeping the Forces of Doomsday busy in other parts.

But let me hand you over to David Harrison of *Staples Hill* in West Sussex:

"After 401 days, since the War of the Solstice began, the Lords of Eastwick, Dorn, Dagon, Whispers and Ashard, with the Ugar of Ugar and Thaurade the Fay, stormed the Citadel of Helmsick, defeating

Doomsday's evil forces.

"The Lord of Helmsick is freed from the appearance grip of the Dark Lord. However, Doomsday himself escaped on a steed, black as midnight, on Solstice tide to become, a Lord of Helmsick of Helmsick.

"All had worried for when Markin, son of Dorn, and his wife the Lady of Helmsick, were slain in battle, while carrying the Ice Crown. However, the Solstice survived to journey south with the east winds to the Citadel of Eastwick, under wings the many days. On hearing the fearful tidings Dorn's wrath was released upon the foul lord of the night. The *Midnight* himself had a vicious attack on the order maintaining the Citadel.

"Over the following 300 days, the Lord of Eastwick, with an army of 3000 warriors and riders, secured the Lord of Helmsick, south of the Mountains of Dorn.

"Consequently, the Ice Lord's weakness, finally Eastwick took command of three of the largest armies of his Citadel and marched North-East, to reclaim the Lords of Dorn, Whispers and Helms. Night and day, the armies of the Frost marched Northwards, the Ice Lord growing as it bent to reach upon there, until they reached the frozen wastes to the north of Helmsick. Now they journeyed west to the Mountains of Dorn and sheltered in the Tower of Doom, from where, almost a year ago, Markin had taken the Ice Crown.

"After resting, Eastwick led the first assault on the Citadel of Helmsick. However, the armies of Doomsday rallied to defend their Dark Lord.

"Finally, on the last hundredth day of the War of the Solstice, the Plains of Dorn and of Despair were cleared of the Ice Lord, and the Lords of Helmsick sheltered in the Keep of Despair while they were slowly interrogated. Four hundred and three days had passed since the War began, when Eastwick led the final assault — the forces of Dorn were routed, and Victory went to the Frost."

I hope David's experiences have whetted your appetite for the unique game. As Steve Baker said in his letter:

"This game is probably the best I have ever played on a computer. It contains all the elements of a world-war."

Next week, I'll be giving you some hints of tips on playing *Lords of Helmsick* too in the meantime, look at Phil McDonald's article in the August issue of *New Adventure* for more information.

This section of advice is designed to make and experienced *Adventurer's* able. Each week Tony Bridge will be looking at different *Adventures* and advising you on some of the problems and pitfalls you can expect to encounter. So, if you have an *Adventure* you want reviewed, or if you are stuck in an *Adventure* and cannot progress any further, write to Tony Bridge, *Adventure Corner*, Popular Computing Weekly, 10/11 Little Newport Street, London EC4A 3DF.

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Going bananas? If you are stuck in an *Adventure* with no hints to help do not despair — help is at hand.

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Abstract

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²² I give this property to match with Jay-Chee's [2] finding that activity on the market (i.e., volume) is a better predictor of profitability than activity in the industry.

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Peek & Poke



Over heated Spectrum

F. Bennett of Bungay, Ipswich, Essex

Q Could you please tell me the best way to prevent my Spectrum 48K from overheating. After about two hours use, the fans of the computer gets really hot and I fear it could do some damage.

A The Spectrum is actually designed to get a 'hot' burner. There is a fan metal plate (called a heat sink) inside the case which produces this effect. The amount of heat produced is not actually very high (you can't fry an egg on it), but is increased if you have your machine sitting on a carpet when it is operating.

Quite honestly, if your machine is working OK after two hours of use I would think that you have little to worry about.

For the beginner

Christopher Thomas of Chesham, Essex

Q On some games for the Spectrum there are user definable keys. Could you tell me if it is possible to use a Komplete joystick with these and if so how? Also, which is the best book on machine code for the beginner?

A Unfortunately, there is no method that is easily explainable of converting games to utilize Komplete joysticks. Although many games are Komplete compatible, there are probably more that aren't. It would be nice if all software houses offered the same options as those Ultimate

(or Ace Ace). For example, their software offers a choice of keyboard, or Komplete or Ultimate 1.

The answer to your second question may be harder to explain readers, it is Spectrum Machine Language for the Absolute Beginner, published by Melbourne House.

Zero line number

T. Rogers of Fleetwood, Lancs, Essex

Q I own a 48K Spectrum, and am writing a program involving a mix line number. I would like to know the Pairs that produces this, and various file names.

A Pair (PAGE 2000) + 200 * PAGE 20000 — 1/2 The rather complex statement will convert the line number of the first basic statement in your program to 0.

By entering the second parameter of this Pair to 1, you will create an absolute line number.

Who sells it?

S. Parker of 18 Lister Street, Wiltshire, West Midlands, Essex

Q Please could you tell me the address of anybody who sells the Spanish game *Elephant-Lover*? I have been everywhere and can't find a shop that sells it.

A *Elephant-Lover* is a Spanish game that is sold in that country under the name of *Jump for your life* by Unique. Their address is 15 Thornley Lane, South West, Rochs. The game was reviewed in PCW, 13 September.

Machine ability

Peter Mahon of Humber, Essex

Q I am thinking of buying a 48K Komplete for my 48K Spectrum. Could you please tell me of the pros and cons compared to the factory upgrading? Will it reduce the machine's ability in any way?

A Personally, if I were you I would take the Kom-

plete option for one good reason. If you are an overseas mail order client, your contact with your supplier is likely to be even more fraught than usual. As long as you can buy your Komplete from your local dealer, then you should have no problems.

Using a Komplete will not in itself reduce the machine's capabilities in any way. You may have trouble in connecting other devices to your Komplete, but that is something that you can check if you see before you buy.

Graphic problems

T. Rogers of Manchester, Essex

Q Can you please help me before I throw my 48K out of the window? I have had my 48K since then, and I cannot for the life of me discover how to produce the graphic character I see in listings.

I cannot find references to these in my books and as a beginner am getting frustrated to say the least. I do hope you can help me.

A If you press the shift key and a letter key at the same time a graphic symbol will appear on the screen. By making a note of which symbol appears for each character combination you should be able to overcome your difficulty.

Confirmed Issue 3

Roberto-Garcia of London, Essex

Q I have been told that I have an Issue 3 Spectrum. How can I confirm that? Also, will my machine work with a monitor?

A First as Issue 3 will give the monitor 16, if you have an issue 3 machine it

gives the monitor 120 for Issues 1 and 2.

Your machine will work with a monitor but only if the monitor has the correct interface.

Amstrad support

D. Scrovello of Essex, Essex

Q I am considering buying an Amstrad CPC64 and would like to know more about the software support.

I would be grateful if you if you could tell me if any of the better software houses will be writing or converting software for this computer.

A Many publishers are already writing a large number of programs currently available on the Spectrum will be appearing on Amstrad games. Some Spectrum games have already appeared (*Chocomania* Mail for one) and Software Projects are known to be converting *Jet Set Willy*.

It is likely that the amount of software available for the machine will depend on how many are sold, and as the sales figures so far look encouraging, I guess that the current trickle of releases will turn into a flood.

A long search

R. Jones of MPO 25 Essex

Q I bought a Microgen-Inter MPP-II last year and I understood it would run AppleSoft programs. As I have been unable to find any software or literature for this type of computer, I wondered if you could assist me?

A My contacts in the publishing world have drawn a blank, I am afraid. It seems to (though you may have a long and possibly fruitless search. (That is, of course, unless someone out there knows different.)

Is there anything about your computer you don't understand, and which everyone else seems to take for granted? Whatever your problem, send it to Phil Rogers and every week he will *Poke* back as many answers as he can. The address is *Peek & Poke*, PCW, 12-13 Little Newport Street, London WC2H 9LD.

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INFECTION - HIV remains stable. 3000 viral copies/ml last found. No more. HIV antibody remains very high. Infection (opportunistic dysentery) common. Gastrointestinal symptoms. Differentiation needed, where is temporary change post-HIV or always. See details following in *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 26: 27, 1992.

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ADVENTURE HELPLINE

Drink Through an Ethanol Glass or Spectrum. I cannot get the first drink and I cannot get out of Chapter 10. I Marjorie, 24. From East Mountain, VT.

Hotels on Commandos 84. How do I get out of the ghetto & disappear? How do I span the magic door and the side door in the command? Philip Mann, 21 Riverside Road, Fortrose, Surrey, Wokingham, W. Yorks.

Experiments Inland on Spectrums. Outside get beyond killing the sword and going in the boat, what do I do next? Also, how do you operate the world? Garret Taylor, 16, Allen Road, Redden, Redlands. **Hinting on Spectrums.** I am playing the spectrum with 4-6 year olds. I have "mastered" 10% grade and they are losing interest. Can someone give the score sheet? D.A. Knott, Redfield, Maine, Forest, Gray.

Hotel on Spectrum. I need more help with the return journey. N H Williams, Haring, Weymouth, Poole & Christchurch, N Wales.

Eric, Boss & the Lost American Spectrum. Having been established in describing the grails with the planet-
tail. The Cloud Fairy is not two
colours and only resembles me-
ance. Michael Fingers, Boss, II
Fingers, Boss, II, Fingers, Boss, II

Chlorine Upstart on Spectrum: How do I get out of pH 7.0 and chlorine in drink water I put them in the hospital? P. Boyce, M.D., M.Sc., Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine, St. Mary's Hospital, London, Ontario, Canada.

Survival of the Fittest on Connecticut's Eastern Shore
 How do I tell the good from the bad? What is the best way to manage? How do I get past the serpent? F. E. Arthur and J. Arthur, 1000 Baldwins Lane, Country Green, Hallowell, Maine.

Diary

[illegible]

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On a routine flight to Zen you are caught in a flash meteor storm and forced to make an emergency landing on Midwestern Planet.

You black-out during the crash and when you come round your valuable human cargo is missing.

Nightmare Played as a test adventure for the Connoisseurs of Madness for D&D by Mike Green. "

All you have to do to get your *Nightmare Planet* cassette is to collect the three special coupons in this and the past two issues of *Popular Computing Weekly* and send them, together with a cheque or postal order for £1.95 made payable to *Somehow Books*, to *Nightmare Planet Office*, *Popular Computing Weekly*, 12-13 Little Newport Street, London WC2C 2LJ.



**Thymus* *Flora* was also published in the *Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society*.

New Releases

ARSONIST

Arsonist is the latest of *Arsonist* arcade games and it reveals the dark side to the *Arsonist* series — with a light side really more for large setting stage shows.

The *Arsonist* it would seem is an arsonist.



In the game you are the primary member of the fire brigade whose task it is to extinguish the fire the little pink dot has started on the various levels of *Arsonist*. The main idea is to fill a bucket with water from a tap at the bottom of the screen and climb to the various levels where fire rages and put them out. You fight not only fire but many dinosaurs, blacked swags crates and sundry other obstacles.

The entire configuration is topped off with a pink elephant dancing on the roof and dancing the flames with his trunk. Graphics are small but detailed — good too.

Program *Arsonist*
Price \$1
Music *Arsonist*
Supplier *Arsonist*
11 Highway Road
Parramatta
New South Wales

PASSWORD

System 1000 is an absolutely wonderful idea for a program that does not appear to have been considered before — artificial language!

Parling has a wonderful appeal, beating the system and

all that man against machine, but the real thing has several big problems associated with it. The first is the enormous telephone expenses for all that time spent on the modem, the second, is the CIA and FBI who will almost certainly arrest you if you score too.

System 1000 clearly attracts a vast number of different distributions — and you have to back your way around discovering passwords, etc. Your objective is to find and return \$1,000,000 to it's rightful place.

Getting about to the artificial system is as difficult and resembling as any adventure game and a lot of thought has gone into developing the game — the *Arsonist* version even has authentic phone rings which change when you ring around. The *Arsonist* language does its best, too. Something different for adventures how to try and a most for hackers everywhere. Versions also for Spectrum and BBC.

Program *System 1000*
Price \$10.00
Music *Arsonist*
Supplier *Arsonist*
11 Highway Road
Parramatta
New South Wales

MORAL POINT

Why does one could easily be the motto for software houses the reason, but let us not forget it is also the good behavior of those other than the SAS.

In *Arsonist* Commander from Command you get to play a member of the elite corps that defends our liberty. The idea of the game is to clear the streets of terrorists without killing the hostages. How (oh, Iah)

There are three streets to clear, each containing 10 terrorists. Two of the terrorists are protected by the hostages. You have to read articles before offing them, wait, in fact, for the hostages to turn up. I think it's clear that Command are making a deep moral point here — and we all terrorists in someone's eyes, human nature is capable of every different point of view — freedom fighter is innocent — who can say?

The graphics are goodish for a BBC, and the game is well programmed, but is it just me who finds it all a bit different?

Program *Arsonist*
Price \$10.00
Music *Arsonist*
Supplier *Arsonist*
11 Highway Road
Parramatta
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LOST PLANET

Presented by the Quill, a collection of well-constructed adventures from people who would otherwise not have the programming skills to write them. *Arsonist* is a Quill adventure which will, apparently, form the first part of a trilogy called *Arsonist* about the search for the lost planet earth.



GHOSTLY SERVANT

The attempt to combine adventuring with moving graphics in a totally satisfying way goes on with *Arsonist* from *Arsonist* — best known for their *Arsonist* Commander program.

Arsonist is a high resolution, 3D multi-screen game where all commands can be expressed by up down left, right. Despite that, *Arsonist* claim that its complexity should attract adventures as well as the fans of *Arsonist*.

In fact, *Arsonist* is the obvious comparison here, *Arsonist* looks and plays rather like it but with a number of differences — adventures might.

You control a Wizard as he moves through a number of different rooms collecting spells and solving the way down to the night level where the lord of Chaos lives. The spells are not merely a replacement for thunderbolts or lasers; there are a number of different types which have different functions, some up, but others may give you a ghostly servant to do your bidding or make you invisible.

The graphics are superb, not

The author is committed to a deliberate attempt to get away from adventure game cliché and provide something genuinely different — in apparent confidence to change \$7.00 for it — well over the price tag.

It is different — named of a help command, you cannot leave a synthetic being who lives in your body and occasionally takes helpful, insightful or irrelevant comments of irony, sarcasm and misadventure. It's also incredibly dense, much faster than making and map making is required. Another nice touch is the use of different screen colors to distinguish the various versions of information.

Arsonist has much to recommend it — cleverly constructed, apparently lacking in spelling mistakes, *Arsonist* is really only here

only smooth sailing spells but 3D at the effect is



pretty spectacular and is only partly spoiled by the *Arsonist*'s dreadful interface problems.

The plot, graphics and complexity should mean that this one runs and runs — a must for *Arsonist*.

Program *Arsonist*
Price \$7.00
Music *Arsonist*
Supplier *Arsonist*
11 Highway Road
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New South Wales

few complaints. Firstly why spacehips, lasers, robots, etc. why not make the plot really original, too. Secondly, £190 is a bit steep.

Program *Anger Rap*
Price £1.99
More Spectrum
Supplier Alan Pymat
J. Clive Armes
Melbourn
Dorset GNR 282

SILLY PLOT

I wonder how much extra the Spectrum would have cost for it to have enough hardware to be able to run without problems and decent sound — GOF

The point is those two fac-



tes are all that keeps most of the most recently released Spectrum games from being amazing. A case in point being *Pylamania* from Matrix.

Continuing in the 'Willy' series, this is a solid screen action quality epic with big colourful sprites and a silly plot. If only things didn't just keep on changing colour as they pass each other. Anyway, back to the game.

The focus is very far left (Willy!), you have to wander around your home and land a clock. The reason for there that you are asleep and want to wake up. No ordinary house, you find it is absolutely full of bouncing, napping and punting things there are things to collect, some of which are vital for the continuation of the game like keys to doors.

Pylamania is like for the Willy, but it has bigger graphics, but lacks some of the flexibility seen in the layout of the

characters. If the colours didn't clash you really could think you were watching a cartoon.

Program *Pylamania*
Price £2.99
More Spectrum
Supplier Matrix-Gen
44 The Broadway
Bristol
Bris

ZOMBIES

For a while Mastertronic have been threatening to release a game at £190 that would compete with and even surpass those at full price. With *Chiller* they have done it.

Chiller is a third (the) screen game which has a plot loosely based on a well-known, it means video not believed of Jehovah's Witnesses. The game structure is definitely in the Master Master school, so each screen you have to grab a number of zombies while dodging parts of moving zombies and other nasty things.

To get to the cinema you have to guide a little figure that looks suspiciously like a well known, well spoken, pop personality. Using the constant left right jump, he must be made to climb ropes, leap over things swing from branch to branch in the trees and so on. The idea is to jump and leap your way through the screens to find your girlfriend (hooked up), Mastertronic, what about women who want to play the game? who is held captive in a mansion and rescue her.

Not only is it fast, funny and addictive, but the *Commodore* even manages some attempt at an impression of the appropriate music. We were certainly laughing away happily in the office I sat in. *Chiller* is at short, excellent value. At £190 it gets many points at £7.99 or £9.99 to share. My only worry is what appears to be a vast number of copyright infringements that must surely have American lawyers knocking it to the courts. There may just come quickly before the end of the line.

Program *Chiller*
Price £1.99
More Commodore 64
Supplier Mastertronic
Park Lane
100 Park Lane
London W1P 6PL

WILD WEST



High Noon is a return to the simplest of all arcade concepts — all things without being added. Here, complete with a musical tribute to *High Noon*, is that theme in the original, the wild west.

There isn't really much to this game beyond shooting at badmen who shoot back. To be generous though, there are a good number of extra touches — like the undertaker who watches you and drags off the dead his measurement. Later screens have the badmen on horseback and letting dynamite around the earth shattering, but this.

Program *High Noon*
Price £1.99
More Commodore 64
Supplier Ocean
11 Central Drive
Manchester M16 6SS

ROAD SIGNS

There is no doubt about it, in the moment the Spectrum has by far the most interesting and widest ranging software. Not only is it a list with the latest two coverings like *Drive In Machine*, but it knows other machines for us with several but useful additions like *The Highway Code*.

The idea of the program is to supplement the highway code book and provide tests and examples on all the road signs and traffic light sequences, etc.

The program is so straightforward that anyone

there are machine code graphics routines to give the whole thing a very slick look.

Program *The Highway Code*
Price £2.99
More Spectrum
Supplier Ocean Computers
11 Portland Court
Preston Drive
Melbourn
Bedfordshire
MK43 6BB

POT BLACK

There have been a number of pocket-sized programs for the Spectrum, but *Number* must be one of the best.

The concept here is a pocket can be used to position the cursor and a space at the bottom of the screen lets you choose the power of your shot. In the Spectrum version, you can also control spin-top, bottom, left or right with a choice of two strengths.

Apart from that you can play



against the machine or another player and there are no different games all based around the general concept of pool. It plays well, and if you want, and haven't yet got, a pool program that is the one to buy.

Program *Number*
Price £2.99
More Spectrum
Supplier John Lee
47 High Street
Tisbury
Wilt W10 1BB

Compiled by Graham Taylor

New Releases is designed to let people know what software is coming on the market. If you have a new game or utility which you are about to release send a copy and accompanying details to New Releases, Popular Computing Monthly 10-15 Little Newport Street London WC2R 2LP.

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